



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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North Dakota Department of Health Monitoring Potential Public Health Impacts in Area of Williston Fire

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is monitoring conditions surrounding the fire in the industrial park in Williston for any potential threat to public health. The department operates an air monitoring site in Williston that is collecting data on a continual basis and other agencies are on scene with portable air quality monitoring equipment. The department will continue to monitor air quality in the area.

The fire in the industrial park has resulted in a plume of smoke that may adversely affect air quality in the surrounding area, and may cause health concerns. The health department's primary concern at this time is that people impacted by the smoke plume may incur harm to the passages of the nose, airways and lungs. The harm may cause symptoms such as shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, coughing, itching, red or watery eyes, and black mucus.

The North Dakota Department of Health is issuing the following health advisory for people who have respiratory conditions:

- People who have respiratory conditions – such as asthma, emphysema or bronchitis – should stay inside (except for purposes of evacuating), close their windows, and minimize outdoor activity.
- People who are experiencing symptoms of respiratory distress should seek medical care immediately.
- Anyone who is concerned about the smoke may choose to stay indoors.

If further advisories concerning public health are warranted, the department will keep the public informed. Residents of Williston and areas surrounding the fire should continue to monitor local news for future advisories from the Department of Health.

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